

The tendency to give vent to this sort of low soliloquy seems to be greater when the weather is dull.

As a rule the birds are alone, inactive and in a brown study when they are singing the quiet song.

PALGHAT,
December 9, 1953.

K. K. NEELAKANTAN

29. PYTHONS

It may interest your readers to know that in February last, after a cold wet day and night, I was out the next morning on an elephant after the sun had just got up, when I came across five full-grown pythons all on a large ant-hill, broken down to some extent by bear and elephant. They were lying criss-cross. I approached to within 15 yards or so, when they all gradually moved round and faced me. After having a good look at us for five minutes or so, they gradually slid down and disappeared in the surrounding growth. They all appeared to have new skins.

Further on, about 60 yds. away, was another full-grown python sunning itself. That gradually slid away and the mahout and I thought it was fully 15 ft. long.

That too had a new skin, i.e. light and shiny. I have never seen more than two pythons together before.

EVERGREEN COTTAGE,
UPPER SHILLONG,
SHILLONG, ASSAM, 1954.

FRANK NICHOLLS

30. NOTES ON THE FROG *RANA BREVICEPS* SCHNEIDER

(With a sketch)

Mr. Humayun Abdulali of the Bombay Natural History Society sent to us a small collection of nicely preserved frogs of *Rana breviceps* Schneider, collected at Trivandrum, Travancore, in November 1953 by Mr. J. C. Daniel, indicating the presence of a small but distinct tubercle at the tibiotarsal articulation. The collection consisted of seven females and one male. The specimens in the Reserve collection of the Zoological Survey of India were examined, but as there was no representative from Trivandrum, Dr. H. W. Parker of the British Museum of Natural History was approached if he could examine the material in his charge, especially the Trivandrum frogs referred to by Boulenger in his monograph¹. At his request, Miss A. G. C. Grandison very kindly examined all the specimens of *R. breviceps* for the presence of the tubercle referred to above. We take this opportunity of thanking both of them for their help.

¹ Boulenger, G. A. (1920), *Rec. Ind. Mus.*, 20 : 105